

Overview of the Regional Advance Mitigation Planning (RAMP) Regional Assessment for the Central Sacramento Valley (August 9, 2011)

Background: As described in the *Statewide Framework for Regional Advance Mitigation Planning in California* (Statewide Framework)* advance mitigation planning and implementation will occur at a regional scale rather than on a statewide basis. A 1,500-square mile area in the Central Sacramento Valley has been selected to test how RAMP could be implemented at the local level, and to demonstrate how RAMP could integrate with regional conservation priorities. This pilot project will serve as a template for similar efforts elsewhere in the state and will inform the Statewide Framework.

Pilot Project's Regional Assessment Boundaries: Figure 1 shows the location of the Central Sacramento Valley Region. The boundaries were designed to include proposed California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) projects and to accommodate mitigation opportunities near the proposed projects.

Infrastructure Projects in Central Sacramento Valley Region: The Central Sacramento Valley Regional Assessment will provide guidance for development of advance mitigation to offset ecological resource impacts of 34 Caltrans project and 9 DWR projects planned for construction and/or operations and maintenance over the next 20 years. These linear projects often cross county lines, and are mostly in Butte, Sutter, and Yuba counties (as well as small portions of Glenn, Colusa and Placer counties) and include activities such as roadway rehabilitation and realignments, and interchange improvements, rip-rap placement, and sediment removal.

Estimating Infrastructure Project Impacts in the Central Sacramento Valley: Each of the Caltrans and DWR infrastructure projects will undergo a complete environmental analysis to comply with state and federal laws, and will be required to secure all necessary permits prior to construction. However, prior to this detailed impact assessment a preliminary analysis will be made in the Regional Assessment to estimate the range and extent of potential impacts to habitats such as riparian forest, wetlands, vernal pools and to special-status species dependent on these habitats. This analysis is a "demand estimate range" for RAMP-sponsored mitigation and will be used for planning purposes by the agencies. It essentially establishes a range for the amounts and kinds of advance mitigation that might be required.

RAMP-Sponsored Mitigation in the Central Sacramento Valley: The specific mitigation requirements for each project will be developed after the environmental analysis is complete and state and federal permits have been secured, but the demand estimate provides enough information to seek mitigation for projects would integrate with regional conservation goals described in regional NCCP/HCPs and other

local and statewide conservation planning efforts. It will also allow for an assessment of the available tools for achieving advance mitigation, including creation of a state-sponsored mitigation bank, use of existing commercial mitigation banks, or some combination of those approaches. Advance mitigation implementation will actually occur after development of 4-Year Action Plans. These “priority-setting” documents will address subsets of regional DWR and Caltrans projects, and will describe specific advance mitigation approaches that best match the demand as well as a funding plan for securing the mitigation.

*see <https://rampcalifornia.water.ca.gov/> for more information

Figure 1: RAMP Pilot Area (July 2011)

